

## Ticket Fraud

This is a scam where you buy tickets from a website, tout or agent for any event such as concert, festival, football match or any type of performance where the tickets do not arrive or turn out to be fake and **YOU ARE NOT REFUNDED.**

## How is it done?

Social media will frequently advertise websites which offer you the opportunity to purchase heavily discounted tickets to popular events.

Scammers will also create their own **BOGUS TICKET RETAIL COMPANIES** which look genuine and can even use a name very similar to legitimate ticket sales websites.

Websites will often advertise tickets for sale for events which **IN REALITY HAVE SOLD OUT** or claim to have a limited number of tickets available which have previously been advertised as being a “sold out” event. It has even been known for tickets to be sold for fake events that do not even exist!

If the tickets do arrive via post or in the form of an E ticket it often becomes apparent upon attempting to enter the venue that these are fake and **DO NOT PERMIT ACCESS** to the event. Some sites will advise you that a “representative” will meet you at the event with your ticket but no one turns up.

This scam can originate from anywhere in the world and can be done via social media, **FAKE WEBSITES**, buy and sell websites but also at the events themselves.

Ticket touts (Also known as “Scalpers”) are still a regular sight at events who will sell both genuine tickets at a **MUCH HIGHER INFLATED PRICE** than the face value of the ticket as well as fake tickets. So by purchasing tickets this way you run the risk of being ripped off AND still missing out.

## How can I prevent this?

**ALWAYS PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD** where possible which will allow you to cancel the payment if the tickets do turn out to be a no show (credit card purchases are protected under the Consumer Credit Act) ,Only buy tickets from the venue box office, promoter, official agent or reputable ticket exchange site.

**BE WARY OF BUYING AND SELLING WEBSITES** which act just as a platform for transactions as these sites are not liable if it all goes wrong.

If you do choose to buy tickets from an individual then never transfer the money direct into their bank account. Instead a use a secure payment site such as “PayPal.

**ENSURE THAT ANY WEBSITE IS A MEMBER OF “STAR”** (Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers) by checking STAR’S website direct (Do not just rely on a website claiming they are!)

If you do not manage to get a valid ticket for your longed for event ,accept that this time it just **WASN’T MEANT TO BE**. Don’t be tempted to turn up at the event ticketless in the hope you will be able to obtain a valid ticket as the chances of this are highly unlikely.



## Useful contacts

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) Tel: 101 / 999

[www.victims-first.org.uk](http://www.victims-first.org.uk)

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) Tel: 0300123 2040

[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

[www.cyberaware.gov.uk](http://www.cyberaware.gov.uk)

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

[www.nationaltradingstandards.uk](http://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk)

Please contact Thames Valley Police for more details via telephone dialling 101, or visit our website at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

